

BOWSER'S BIRD

It Looked Like a Crow, But You Can Never Tell.

Now what on earth have you got there?" asked Mrs. Bowser as Mr. Bowser entered the house the other evening with a bulky package in his hand.

He did not reply at once. He removed his overcoat, pulled off his gloves and hung up his hat, and then with great deliberation he broke the string holding a sheet of paper around some object and the object stood revealed in the gas light. In that object was another object.

The first object was a bird cage. The second was a bird.

The third was Mrs. Bowser, looking from the bird to the cage and from cage to Mr. Bowser.

"Well?" she asked.

He led the way down to dinner, and when they were seated he said:

"It has been years and years since my heart has been touched as it was half an hour ago. I was coming along when I saw an old woman seated in a doorway. She was old and poorly dressed. The lines of suffering were on her face. I don't think she had had anything to eat for days. As I halted before her she looked up at me through her tears."

"I believe they always do that," quietly replied Mrs. Bowser.

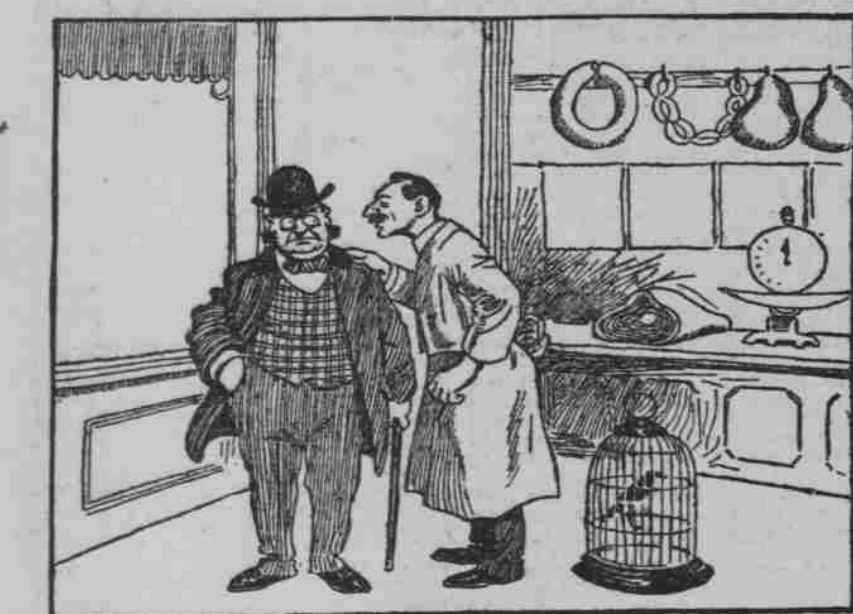
He looked at her and flushed up, but after a moment continued:

"She had the bird cage beside her."

"And the bird cage also looked up at you through its tears?"

"Woman, are you gibing at one of the most affecting scenes I have ever witnessed?" If so, I have not another word to say."

"I did not mean the bird cage, but the bird. The bird was sorry for the old woman, of course. There is no reason why a bird shouldn't weep when sorry. You halted and then what?"



"WHISPERED IN HIS EAR."

"The old woman informed in piteous tones that misfortune compelled her to part with her pet. She must sell it or starve and freeze. Husband gone—children gone—friends gone—only the bird left and she must part from that!"

"And you were affected, of course?"

"If I hadn't been someone ought to have come along and given me the boot. Certainly I was affected. I offered her a dollar, but she wouldn't take it unless she sold the bird. She was poor, but she had pride. I refused to take the bird for a dollar; I made her accept two. She wept again as she begged me to be kind to it."

"And you will be, of course?"

"Yes, I shall be, and if anyone else is not they will have to settle with me!"

"And what sort of a bird is it? I did not look very close."

"That's what the old woman couldn't exactly make out. She said she thought it might be an oriole, but wasn't sure. I think it is a bobolink, but it might be a mockingbird. When we go up we will give it a look over. Poor old woman! It must have been like parting from an only child."



"I SAW AN OLD WOMAN IN A DOORWAY."

Mrs. Bowser knew when to stop, and she stopped. Not another word was said about the bird until they had finished dinner and reached the sitting room. Then Mr. Bowser brought the what-is-it into the limelight. The bird hopped up to its perch. It chucked a little. It cocked its head and looked up without any tears in its eyes.

"We are strangers, and he is sizing us up!" Mrs. Bowser whispered.

"And do you think it is an oriole?"

"I—I can't hardly say. It has the tail of an oriole, hasn't it?"

"Hardly."

"Then it's a bobolink. Doesn't it look at you like a bobolink?"

Mrs. Bowser shook her head.

"Say, it's a whippoorwill. Yes, sir it is. It has come to me that—"

"It's no whippoorwill."

"Then it's a mockingbird. Why, of course it is. Say, I've got a \$50 mockingbird for \$2 and saved a human life besides!"

"And I shouldn't say it was a mockingbird, either," replied Mrs. Bowser as she drew a long breath and braced up to meet the coming explosion.

"Then, what in thunder is it? Any-

one would be a fool to call it a canary."

Ten minutes previously Mrs. Bowser had known when to stop, but now her acumen had suddenly deserted her. She hesitated a little, but finally took the plunge and blurted out:

"It's nothing less than a young crow."

Bowser jumped just seven feet. She measured it half an hour later with the tape line.

"By the jumping, jumpy cracky, but what do you mean?" he shouted at her.

"Just what I said. Mr. Bowser, you were born in the country. You must have seen thousands of crows. I should have thought you could have spotted this bird at once as a crow. Look at the size of him. Look at his plumage. Look at his claws and beak. It's a 'last year's' crow."

"Never, never never! If that bird is a crow then this house is the Cathedral of Cologne. Crow? Why—why—"

He choked and gasped and flourished his arms around, but Mrs. Bowser gave her attention to the bird. She saw that something was about to happen. That bird was glad to be there. Things looked as if there was a turn for the better for him. He therefore opened his mouth and cawed. It was the regular caw of a regular crow. No man in America except Mr. Bowser would have disputed it. He did.

"Mrs. Bowser, have you lost the little brains you once had?" he roared as he glared down at the innocent crow.

"You may call it an oriole, if you wish," she replied. "The fact remains, however, that the poor old woman with tears in her eyes worked a gum game on you."

Mr. Bowser tried to roar some more, but it wouldn't come. For a minute



it looked as if apoplexy would come. Then the red in his face turned white, and his voice hardly above a whisper he said:

"Mrs. Bowser, you have made a fiendish assertion. You must stand or fall by it. If it is a crow I shall beg your pardon. If not, divorce must follow. Our family butcher shall be the judge. He owns a farm—he knows a crow when he sees one. I will take the oriole right over there."

"But if you want a bird around the house why not keep the crow?" she answered. "Perhaps he has been taught to talk. If so, you and he can pass many a pleasant evening together."

"You—you stand or fall!" he hissed as he went out of the door with cage in hand. As he went out the crow cawed again. Two caws don't always make a crow, but in this case it came pretty near it.

The butcher welcomed Mr. Bowser with a smile, and when asked if he knew a crow from an oriole he said he guessed he did. The paper was removed from the cage, and Mr. Bowser stood back.

The crow cawed. There was an interrogation after it as if he were asking where he was at.

The butcher gurgled.

Mr. Bowser shivered.

"Well?"

"Who says it isn't a crow?"

"I do."

The man of meat and bones came out from behind the counter and up to Mr. Bowser and whispered in his ear.

"It's the same hallucination Dr. Cook has! Get home and soak your feet and get to bed! Leave the crow here. I'll kill and dress him and sell him to some blind man for an overgrown squab!" (Copyrighted 1910 by Associated Literary Press.)



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"—Was Preacher's sale of women's shoes a success?"

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He—"How was that?"

She—"He advertised 'big bargains.'"

Nil Desperandum.

Percy Parkinson rose and brushed the dust from his knees. Then, drawing himself up to his full height, he gazed resentfully upon the form of Miss Muriel Muggins, who nonchalantly fanned herself the while.

"Very well, Miss Muggins," came in bitter tones from Percy. "Oh, very well! you have spurned me twice! But, though despair eats my heart, I shall not die! I mean to go into the busy world. I will fight! I will win! My name shall become known, and my riches shall become envied—"

"Pardon me for interrupting you, Mr. Parkinson," interjected Miss Muggins, "but when you shall have accomplished all that you may try me again."—Lippincott's.

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"I'm on the stage. Going a musical turn."

"You had a poor ear for music when a boy."

"And have yet. I can only play 'Annie Laurie' and I can't play that very well."

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Sunday

Y. M. C. A. and every day at corner 9th and Quincy.
Y. W. C. A. and every day, 2nd Floor Masonic Bldg. 623 Jackson.
Socialist Meeting—at 119 West Sixth, upstairs, at 2:30 p. m. Every Sunday.

Typographical Union—No. 121, at Labor temple, E. J. Gribbin, secretary. Ind. Phone 2486 Blue.
B. of L. F. & E.—Local No. 205, at 123 East 6th ave., at 2:30 p. m.
Retail Clerks—Local No. 2151, at 618 Kansas ave., 1:30 p. m. Secy. C. C. Coulson, 709 Kansas ave.

Monday

K. of P.—Valiant Lodge No. 155, at 122 East 6th ave.
K. of P.—Amity Lodge No. 231 at 837 North Kansas ave.
P. O. E.—Topeka Aeris No. 53 at 615 Van Buren.
K. and L. of Security—Victor Council No. 4, at 1002 North Kansas ave.
I. O. Red Men—Shawnee Tribe No. 14, at 118 East 6th ave.
S. & D. of Justice—Topeka Council No. 5, at Security hall.
Fraternal Brotherhood—Topeka Lodge No. 311, at 119 West 6th ave.
Fraternal Union of A—Topeka lodge No. 522, at 522 Kansas ave.
Hod Carriers and Building Laborers Local No. 287, at 618 Kansas ave. Geo. Hagen, secy., 506 East 17th.
Painters Local—No. 96 at 420 Kansas ave., secretary Frank P. Woodruff, 617 Hancock st.
1st Battery at 404-406 Kansas ave.
The Swedish American National League and Norden Benefit Association meets second and fourth Monday of each month. Fred Isaacson, 157 Gratton street, recorder.

R. A. M.—Topeka Chapter No. 5, at Masonic hall.
O. O. F.—Capitola Rebekah Lodge No. 219, at Security hall.
A. O. H.—Shawnee Co. Division No. 1, at 117 West 6th ave.
A. O. H.—Ladies' Branch No. 1, at 117 West 6th ave.
W. C. T. U.—At First M. E. church.
Loyal Americans of the Republic—Topeka Assembly No. 1161—meets at 418 Kansas ave.
Journeyman Tailors—Local No. 120, at 306 Kansas ave., Stuart McDonald, Secy., 720 Kansas ave.
Printing Pressmen—Local No. 49, at 618 Kansas ave. Secy. C. G. Groesch, 210 West 20th.
Colored A. F. & A. M.—Euclid Lodge No. 3, at 404 Kansas ave.
Colored R. L. of Protection—Capitol City, Council No. 1 at 429 Kansas

Tuesday

I. O. O. F.—Shawnee Lodge No. (1) at 117 West 6th ave.
K. & L. of Security—Shawnee Council No. 3 at 831 North Kansas ave.
Triple Tie B. A.—Topeka Council No. 9, at Lincoln Post Hall.
K. & L. of Security—Capital Council No. 1 at Security hall.
M. W. of A.—Sunflower Camp No. 536, at 123 West 6th ave.
Knights Protected Ark—Capital Ark No. 60, at 122 East 6th ave.
Owls—Topeka Nest No. 10, at 110 East 6th ave.
Fraternal Aid Ass't.—Topeka Council No. 2, at Security hall.
Topeka Oratorio Soc.—At 107 East 8th ave.
Moulders Union—Local No. 424, at 618 Kansas ave., Secretary, G. L. Whitlock, 701 Clark.
Triple Tie Benefit Association, Topeka Council No. 8, meets every Tuesday night in Lincoln Post Hall.
U. B. of Carpenters—Local No. 1445 at 618 Kansas ave. Secretary S. J. Crume, 1402 E 8th st.
I. O. O. F.—Harmony Rebekah Lodge No. 51, at 819 North Kansas ave.
East Side Imp. Ass'n.—at 5th ave and Lake st.
Photo Engravers—Local No. 41 at homes of members. Sec. James Swan at Capper Engraving Co.
United Spanish War Veterans—Frank C. Armstrong Camp No. 3, at 119 West 6th ave.
Colored O. E. S.—Rebecca Chapter No. 3, at 404 Kansas ave.

Wednesday

I. O. O. F.—Topeka Lodge No. 40, at 117 West 6th ave.
A. O. U. W.—Capital Lodge No. 3, at 122 East 6th ave.
P. O. E.—Topeka Lodge at 204, corner 7th and Jackson.
A. O. U. W.—Star Lodge No. 20, at 831 North Kansas ave.
Degree of Honor—Excelsior Lodge No. 61, at K. P. Hall.

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K. O. T. M.—Capital City Tent No. 24, at 119 West 6th ave.
K. and L. of Security—Topeka Council No. 2, at Security hall.
Fraternal Aid—Shawnee Council No. 1, at 1002 North Kansas ave.
Court of Honor—Shawnee District Court No. 515, at 123 West 6th ave.
S. & D. of Justice—No. 33, meets 418 Kansas avenue, above Elite theater.
National Protective Legion—Topeka Lodge No. 2167, at K. of P. hall.
Operative Plasterers—Local No.—at 10-11 Office Bldg., E. L. Newberry, Secy., 201 Burr st.

Royal Arcanum—Topeka Council No. 1057, at Security hall.
Degree of 1908 Capital Lodge No. 7 at 115 West 6th ave.
I. B. of Electrical Workers—Local 238 at 618 Kansas ave. Sec. C. H. Adams, 1518 West st.
G. U. O. of O. F.—Household of Ruth, No. 166, at 418 Kansas ave.
Colored O. E. S.—Myra Chapter No. 5, at 404 Kansas ave.
Fraternal Union of America—Topeka lodge No. 522, 2nd and 4th Wednesday, R. J. Kearney, Sec.

Thursday

A. O. U. W.—Irwin Lodge No. 260, at 119 West 6th ave.
A. O. U. W.—Lindale Lodge No. 299, at (Shorey).
B. O. of Beavers—Dam No. 1, at 418 Kansas ave.
M. W. of A.—Shawnee Camp No. 2800 at 123 West 6th ave.
M. W. of A.—North Topeka Camp No. 1242 at 123 West 6th ave.
I. O. Red Men—Wampawo Tribe No. 92, at 831 North Kansas ave.
Sons of Herman—Eintracht Lodge No. 6, at 823 Kansas ave.
Triple Tie B. A.—Topeka Council No. 9, at 118 East 6th ave.
I. J. B. & M.—Local No. 3, at 410 Kansas ave. Secy. G. M. Williams, 913 North Tyler.

I. A. of Stone Cutters—Local No.—at 618 Kansas ave. Secy. S. C. Harris, 326, East 17th ave.
A. F. & A. M.—Golden Rule Lodge No. 90, at 900 North Kansas ave.
I. O. O. F.—Shawnee encampment No. 3, at 117 West 6th ave.
W. O. W.—Topeka Camp No. 75, at 122 East 6th ave.
C. M. B. A.—St. Joseph's Branch No. 6, at 213 West 2d.
K. of O.—Topeka Camp No. 534 at 201 East 8th ave.
National Union—Kansas Council No. 265, at 628 Kansas ave.
Oakland Council No. 33 Sons and Daughters of Justice meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday evening at Lincoln Post Hall.

Charmakers Local—No. 36, at 618 Kansas ave. Sec. John Curry, 804½ Kansas ave.
Switchmen's Union—Local No. 12 at 123 East 6th ave.
Colored O. E. S.—Bethany Chapter No. 7, at 404 Kansas ave.

Friday

I. O. O. F.—Eugene Lodge No. 73, at 819 North Kansas ave.
I. O. O. F.—Excelsior Lodge No. 620, at 117 West 6th ave.
O. U. W.—Topeka Lodge No. 11, at 123 West 6th ave.
A. O. U. W.—Upchurch Lodge No. 244, at 123 East 6th ave.
O. T. M.—National Tent No. 19, at 831 North Kansas ave.
K. & L. of Security—Columbia Council No. 50, at Security hall.
Old Abe Camp—No. 16, Sons of Veterans, Topeka Post Hall, 216 W. Sixth avenue.
B. O. of Beavers—Riverside Dam No. 3, at Railroad and Curtis sts.
Royal Neighbors—Topeka Camp No. 148, at 119 West 6th ave.
Royal Neighbors—Woodbine Camp No. 65, at 1002 North Kansas ave.
Triple Tie B. A.—Home Council No. 44, at 118 East 6th ave.
Fraternal Brotherhood—Oakland Lodge, No. 402 at cor. Wabash and Thomas.

Mystic Circle—Cheops Ruling No. 1655, at Security hall.
Topeka Industrial Council—at 618 Kansas ave. Sec. W. H. Keel, 618 Kansas ave.
G. A. R.—Blue Post No. 250, at 831 North Kansas ave.
W. R. C.—No. 5 for Blue Post, at 831 North Kansas ave.
A. A. S. R.—Oriental Lodge of Perfection No. 3, at Masonic hall.

Saturday

K. of P.—Topeka Lodge No. 35, at 122 West 6th ave.
K. O. T. M.—Topeka Tent No. 13, at Security hall.
Degree of Honor—Charity Lodge No. 26, at 831 North Kansas ave.
Ray, Carmen—Local No. 4, at 618 Kansas ave.
G. A. R.—Topeka Post No. 71, at 216 West 6th ave.

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